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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 INT-05 TRSE-00 OES-05

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DRAFTED BY COM/BIC/CAGNE/JHEARN/BT
APPROVED BY EB/OCA/REP/BEBYRON
COM/BIC/CAGNE/PHALE
OWRT/INTERIOR/JWO'MEARA
TREASURY/RWILLIAMS
EB/CBA/STATE/JNESVIG
COM/BIC/CAGNE/ABOUDREAU
NEA/RA/HMONTGOMERY (INFO)
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R 212153Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: BEXP, XF
SUBJECT: SAUDI DESALINIZATION PROJECTS: PROPOSED FACT FINDING MISSION
RBF: (A) STATE 15747; (B) JIDDA 796; (C) ABU DHABI 273; (D) KUWAIT 385; (E) MANAMA L24; (F) DOHA 106

1. SINCE RECEIPT REFS (B-F) HAVE LEARNED OF IMPORTANT CONFERENCE ON WATER DESALINIZATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO BE HELD IN CAIRO MARCH 12-14. WE UNDBRSTAND CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY ITALIAN FIRMS SOCIETE ITALIANA RECIME (SIR) AND CAIRO'S AL-AHRAM. FOLLOWING IS AGENDA FOR CONFERENCE ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION: (1) WATER FOR CIVIL, AGRICULTURAL, AND INDUSTRIAL NEEDS; (2) PRESENT SITUATION AND
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PLANNING FOR WATER DESALINIZATION IN ARAB COUNTRIES

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IN NEAR FUTURE; (3) TECHNOLOGY FOR WATER AND ENERGY PRODUCTION; PRESENT AND FUTURE TRENDS, COST ANALYSIS; (4) NEEDS OR DESALINIZATION PLANTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES; BALANCE OF WATER RESOURCES AND USES; (5) GENERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF SEAWATER DESALINIZATION; AND (6) PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND CONCLUSIONS. WE UNDERSTAND ATTENDEES WILL INCLUDE PRINCE MOHAMMED AL-FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA AND RELEVANT CABINET MINISTERS FROM KUWAIT, UAE, BAHRAIN, AND QATAR.

2. J.W. O'MEARA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OWRT, INTERIOR DEPT., INVITED BY SIR TO DELIVER PAPER AT CONFERENCE. O'MEARA UNABLE ATTEND BUT SENDING J.J. STROBEL OF OWRT IN HIS STEAD.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION GIVEN O,MEARA, SIR WAS NOT PLANNING INVITE US FIRMS, CITING PROBLEMS OF ARRANGING ACCOMODATIONS, BUT DID NOT OBJECT TO INTERIOR INVITING THEM ON CONDITION THEY ARRANGE OWN TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMODATIONS. O'MEARA ACCORDINGLY HAS INVITED 14 US FIRMS TO ATTEND. SO FAR BECHTEL, UNIVERSAL OIL PRODUCTS, KAISER ENGINEERS, RALPH M. PARSONS, CO., MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY (MECO), BURNS AND ROE, DOW CHEMICAL, FLUOR CORP., CATALYTIC CONSTRUCTION CO., WESTINGHOUSE, AND IONICS HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL GO TO CONFERENCE. EXPECT BE ABLE NEXT WEEK TO CABLE NAMES OF COMPANY REPS. ENVIROGENICS, DUPONT, AND RILEY-BEAIRD REGRET THEY CANNOT PROVIDE REPRESENTATION.

3. ARTHUR BOUDREAU, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS FACILITATION

(INCLUDING MAJOR PROJECTS) IN CAGNE ALSO PLANS RETURN CAIRO TO ATTEND CONFERENCE AT CONCLUSION OF RAILROAD EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION WHICH HE LEADING TO AREA FEBRUARY 22-MARCH 10. BOUDREAU WILL BRIEF EMBASSY CAIRO FULLY ON BACKGROUND TO REFTELS DURING INITIAL TRADE MISSION STOP CAIRO FEBRUARY 22-28. EMBASSY CAIRO RBQUESTED PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR BOUDREAU FROM MARCH 10 THROUGH DURATION OF CONFERENCE. ALSO PLEASE INFORM BOUDREAU THAT CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN AL-AHRAM FACILITIES.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF PROPOSED ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE BY ABOVE CITED REPS FROM SAUDI

ARABIA, KUWAIT, UAE, BAHRAIN, AND QATAR. ANY OTHER DETAILS ON CONFBRENCB OR ATTENDEES ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY BE ABLE FURNISH WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES EXCEPT CAIRO: MOST OF FIRMS WHICH

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MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED COMPRISE DESAL FACT-FINDING
MISSION SUBJECT OF REFTELS ATTENDING CAIRO CONFERENCE.
IF ATTENDEES FROM PENINSULA COUNTRIES ARE AS REPORTED,
FIRMS WILL GET OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPOSURE TO SAME OFFICIALS
IN CAIRO THAT THEY WOULD EXPECT TO SEE ON PROPOSED FACT-
FINDING MISSION. SUBJECT MATTER OF CAIRO CONFERENCE ALSO
IN NATURE OF INFORMATION SUCH MISSION WOULD BE SEEKING.
IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WASHINGTON FEELS IT BEST TO HOLD
FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED FACT-FINDING MISSION
IN ABEYANCE UNTIL RESULTS OF CAIRO CONFERENCE ARE IN.
ATTENDANCE BY BOUDREAU AND STROBEL AT CONFERENCE WILL PRO-
VIDE BETTER BASIS FOR DETERMINING DESIRABILITY AND UTILITY
OF FACT-FINDING MISSION. R QUEST POSTS REACTIONS. KISSINGER

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